



National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

Inside Wallops

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May 5, 2003

International X-ray Astronomy School to be held at Wallops Flight Facility

Since the launches of NASA's Chandra and ESA's XMM-Newton, x-ray astronomy is becoming a growing topic of research in astrophysics. Not all astronomers, however, have actually analyzed x-ray data. Nor do they have a complete understanding of the aspects involved.

The X-ray Astronomy School was initiated to assist students in understanding more about the functions and challenges involved in this aspect of astronomy as well as the techniques used in this field.

Co-organizer of the school, Ilana Harrus, says that this school was created three years ago to allow students to learn x-ray astronomy and its techniques. There are major differences between x-ray and what is done in optical or radio astronomy.

"It is important that the next generation of astronomers be prepared for all of the aspects (all the wavelengths) of modern astronomy," Harrus said.

Some of the subjects to be addressed are: A review of science addressed in x-ray astronomy, a review of x-ray production mechanisms, x-ray analysis, and a review of x-ray detectors with an emphasis on technologies used in currently working satellites and new x-ray technologies.

Multiple speakers are scheduled to lecture at the 3rd International X-ray Astronomy School. They come from Goddard, the Chandra X-ray Center at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass., and the Astronomy Department of Penn State University, State College, Pa.

To allow for interaction between students and instructors, only 45 students are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Previous students have come from Montana, California, Wisconsin, and as far as Mexico, France and England. They are typically students with post-doctoral positions or graduate students who are studying x-ray astronomy as well as doing work for their thesis.

The school has been held at Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, and Berkeley Springs, W.Va. This year's school will be held at the Wallops Flight Facility, May 12-16.

Universities Space Research Association, NASA and the Chandra X-ray Observatory Center organize the X-ray Astronomy School.

For more information about the X-ray Astronomy School, visit: <http://xrayschool.gsfc.nasa.gov>.

Wallops Shorts..... On the Road

John Campbell, Suborbital and Special Orbital Projects Directorate; Steve Smith and Bernice Merritt, Balloon Program Office and Magdi Said, Carrier Systems Branch took part in a job fair at the Suborbital Center of Excellence, University of New Mexico in Las Cruces on April 30.

Centennial of Flight Milestone

66 years ago on May 6, Hindenburg crashes in Lakehurst, N.J.

42 years ago on May 5, Alan Shepard makes first Mercury suborbital flight in Freedom 7.

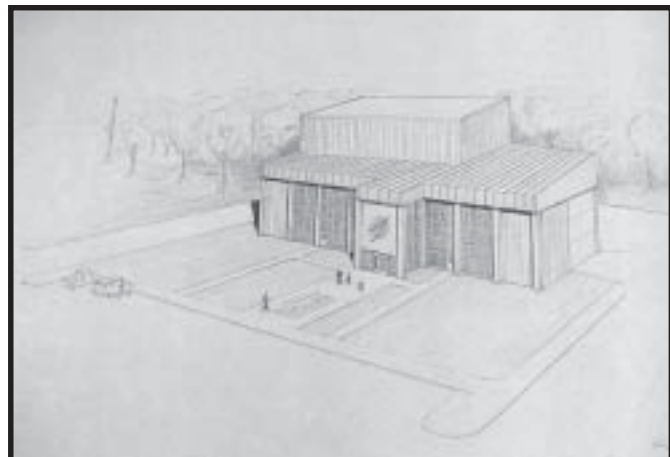
You are Cordially Invited

*Ribbon Cutting
10:30 a.m.
Dorm — Building F-4*

and

*Ground Breaking Ceremony
1:00 p.m.
Payload Processing Facility
NASA Wallops Flight Facility*

Tuesday, May 20, 2003



*For further information, call
Betty Flowers on x1584.*

2002 PEP Survey Analysis
by Stan Williams

Those organizations participating in the 2002 Performance Evaluation Profile (PEP) include NSROC, CSOC, CSC, MANTECH, WICC, Dyncorp, along with NASA Civil Service Codes 200, 500, 800, and 972.

All organizations have been briefed on the strengths and weaknesses in our occupational safety and health program and have developed actions plans to correct the weaknesses.

Examples of PEP Action Items include:

- Improving communication between management and employees to effectively access safety training needs and methods of training material development
- Incorporating the Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) into the organization's safety and health program
- Updating employee training assessment plans to reflect the organization's safety training goals
- Including safety committee members in safety walk-through inspections and periodic review of the effectiveness within the organization's health and safety program
- Incorporating statistical mishap and injury information into employee safety meetings to increase awareness and prevent reoccurrence
- Communicating a strong commitment to safety through increased safety committee interaction with management, employees, and unions

A PEP Survey Analysis Progress Report is presented regularly in the Monthly Executive Safety Council Meeting. The entire list and the status of each action may be viewed by visiting the Safety Office web page –<http://www.wff.nasa.gov/~code803XXXXXXXXX>

For more information about the 2002 PEP Survey Analysis contact Stan Williams on x2369.

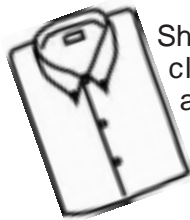
Earth Day Backyard Carnival
May 6
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
At the Pavilion

Far Sale

1999 Dodge Durango, 64,000 miles, fully loaded, CD player, Great condition, \$15,000. Call 787-1558

WEMA is Offering Dry Cleaning Service

The WEMA Exchange will once again accept clothing for dry cleaning and alterations with pick up on Tuesdays and deliveries on Fridays.



Shoe repair and leather cleaning also are available. A complete price list is available in the Exchange, Building E-2.

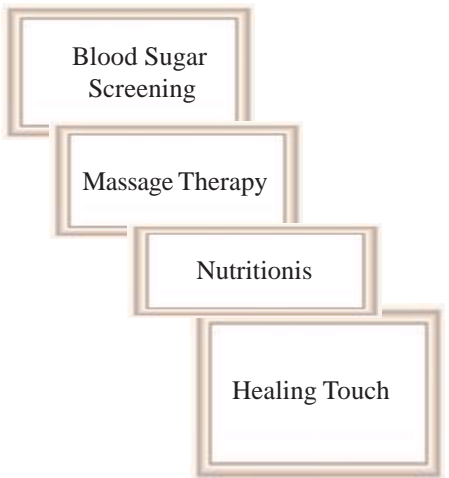
The service is being provided by T's Cleaners of Salisbury and Oak Hall.I

Call the Exchange Manager, Karen Thornes, on x2020 for additional information.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

The Employee Assistance Program and the Health Unit are pleased to present “2003 – How healthy do you want to be?”

Annual Health Fair
May 8, 2003
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Building D-10, Gymnasium



The following organizations will be participating:

- AARP
Accomack County Health Dept.
Alzheimer's Association
American Cancer Society
American Diabetes Association
Brick Haven Adult Medical Day Care
Coalition for Healing Intervention
EEO
Employee Assistance Program
Eastern Shore Rural Health
Hermitage – Eastern Shore
Hospice
Life Crises
Lower Shore Family YMCA
Massage for Wellness
Peninsula Regional Medical Center
Reiki
Three Bears Child Care
Wallops Aerobic Club
WFF Health Unit
WFF Fire Department
Women of Wallops

April was Windy and Wet
by Bob Steiner, Meteorologist

Wallops received over four inches of rain during the first 12 days of April with a final total of 4.5 inches for the month. This was 1.8 inches above the climatological average for the month. The greatest 24-hour total was experienced on the April 7 when 1.35 inches were recorded.

We experienced winds of 25 knots or greater on 10 days during the month. The strongest gust recorded at the Flight Facility was the 48 knots recorded just prior to noon on April 10. At the same time, 51 knots were indicated on Wallops Island.

The average temperature for April of 52.6 degrees was just slightly below the average of 53.3 degrees. The warmest day of the month was the 18th with a reading of 82 degrees. The coolest morning occurred on the 1st with a reading of 31 degrees. No temperature records were set or tied this month.

June begins with high temperatures averaging 78 degrees, warming to averages around 83 by the end of the month. Overnight lows start out in the upper 50's and improve to the upper 60's.

The warmest temperature recorded in June is 96 degrees recorded on four different occasions, three times in 1991 on the 1st, 29th and 30th. The latest recording of 96 degrees was on June 8, 1999. The 40-degree reading observed on June 1 and 2, 1967 are the record lows for the month. Normally we can expect to receive 3.15 inches of rain during June occurring on 8 days scattered throughout the month.

During April '03, the first named tropical storm of the year developed but was no threat to the East Coast. TS ANA is the earliest named tropical system since records were first kept in 1871. The hurricane season officially begins in June and runs through the end of November. On average we can expect to see six hurricanes with nine named storms. Normally, two major hurricanes occur (Category 3, 4 or 5).

Now is the time to begin preparations for the summer months and tropical storm season. Be prepared and enjoy a great summer.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov

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